

Applicant	:	Min Zhu, et al.
Appl. No.	:	09/751,806
Examiner	:	Paul H. Kang
Docket No.	:	16440.4006

Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 19-34 as being anticipated by Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,039) under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e). The applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 19 and 28, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, are patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Specifically, Ludwig does not disclose, teach, or suggest a system or method that enables a first client computer to collaboratively share an application in real-time with another client computer over a global-area network, such as the Internet, via the web browsers of the first and second client computers.

Admittedly, Ludwig does disclose a system that enables two remote computers to exchange video and audio signals in real-time over a network; however, the system disclosed in Ludwig requires specialized collaborative multi-media workstations ("CMWs") that have "collaborative multimedia workstation software" installed on them. The software is described as a fairly comprehensive package that includes features such as rolodex, telephony, and computer integrated fax. See Fig. 20 and Cols. 18-20. This type of software is traditionally known in the art as "fat client" software because such programs often require a substantial amount of storage space on the client computer and also often require resources from the user to configure and install the software. In contrast, the invention claimed in the present application uses what is known as a "thin client," which requires minimal or no storage space on the client computer. Instead of launching a "fat client" to initiate and conduct a collaborative session, as is described in Ludwig, the user simply needs to launch the client computer's web browser, which is generally part of the computer's operating system already, and access a web zone to initiate a collaborative session for application sharing. No configuration of fat client software is required. Thus, any client computer with a web browser and access to the global area network can participate in a collaborative session with another client computer, not just a specialized CMW as is disclosed in Ludwig. Accordingly, claims 19 and 28 and their respective dependent claims are patentable in light of the cited art.

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Conclusion

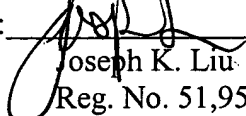
Prompt and favorable action on the merits of the claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned can be reached at (949) 567-6700.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 15-0665.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 11, 2005

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